

Montana Public Service Commission 1701 Prospect Avenue PO Box 202601 Helena MT 59620-2601

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PSC COMMISSIONER BRAD MOLNAR TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON PROPOSED SALE OF NORTHWESTERN CORP. TO BABCOCK & BROWN INFRASTRUCTURE LTD.

Public Service Commissioner Brad Molnar, who represents southeastern Montana on the PSC, will hold a meeting in Billings in February to hear public comments on the proposed acquisition of NorthWestern Corporation by the Australian firm Babcock & Brown Infrastructure Ltd. for \$2.2 billion. Public comments will follow short presentations by NorthWestern and the Montana Consumer Counsel.

The Billings meeting will be held Saturday, February 24, at 1:30 pm, at MSU-B, Lewis & Clark Room.

The PSC proceeding to review the proposed transaction began last June when NorthWestern and Babcock & Brown filed a joint application with the PSC for authorization for BBI to acquire all of the common stock of NorthWestern and to assume its debt under an agreement and plan of merger. The PSC's technical hearing in the case is set to begin March 14 in Helena.

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